वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी०वेंकटस्वामी) : (क) से (घ) अपरिष्कृत कपास के मूल्यों में असाधारण वृद्धि को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने 9 फरवरी, 1994 को पहले से ही निर्यात के लिए संविदाकृत कपास की मात्रा, परंतु जिसका अभी लदान नहीं हुआ, को अस्थाई रूप से आस्थगित कर दिया है । इस उपाय से अपरिष्कृत कपास के मूल्यों की तेजी से वृद्धि की प्रवृत्ति नियंत्रित हुई । घरेलू उपलब्धता को सुधारने के लिए कपास तथा विस्कोस स्टेपल फाइबर के आयात जैसे अन्य उपाय करने के पश्चात, सरकार ने संविदाकृत दायित्वों को पूरा करने के लिए 31.3.94 से संविदाकृत मात्राओं का लदान करने की अनुमति दी है । पिछले दस दिनों से कपास के मूल्य कम होने शुरू हुए हैं ।

(ङ) जी, हाँ ।

Crisis in Handloom Industry

4558. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations from Weavers' Co-operatives, Weavers' Associations and Weavers from different States of the country have been received about the crisis that has developed in the handloom industry resulting in accumulation of handloom cloth with Co-operatives, Corporations and private producers, leading to unemployment of handloom weavers due to unprecedented and unchecked increase in prices of cotton yearn ;

(b) the steps that are taken to keep down the prices of cotton yarn to the level of November, 1993 to help the handloom weavers and to find market for the accumulated stocks of cloth in co-operatives and corporate bodies ; and

(c) whether representations have also been received to allow 20 per cent special rebate on sale of the accumulated stocks of cloth in co-operatives, if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Representations have been received form various handloom interests against the unrelated increase in the prices of cotton yarn.

(b) The increase in prices of cotton yarn in the recent past has been mainly due to increase in the prices of raw cotton. The following are the steps taken by Government of India to contain price rise of raw cotton and cotton yarn :—

(i) Out of the five lakh bales of cotton earlier allowed to be exported, the uncontracted quantities have been ordered to be held back;

(ii) Import at concessional duty of 30,000 MT of viscose staple fibre has been permitted ;

(iii) The RBI has imposed a Selective Credit Control on cotton trading;

(iv) The Cotton Control Order has been amended to provide for prescription of ceilings on stocks of cotton;

(v) The Textile Commissioner has ordered extensive inspection of Pressing Units to check on their holdings and adherence to norms ;

(vi) The Textile Commissioner has ordered extensive inspection of (non-agriculturist) stockists to ensure adherence to ceilings on stock holdings ;

(vii) Advance Licence holders have been instructed to import cotton in advance before they can be allowed to export yarn ;

(viii) The Textile Commissioner has started inforcing rigorously the 'Hank Yarn Obligation Order';

(ix) The mill owners have informally agreed to supply hank yarn to handloom weavers at reduced prices;

(x) Stocks of cotton held by the Cotton Corporation of India are being released to the NTC, STCs and co-operative mills exclusively for production of hank yarn ;

(xi) Import of cotton has been put in OGL, and the import has been made duty free ; and

(xii) Government of India will provide subsidy to make available to handloom weavers upto 20 million kgs. of hank yarn at the subsidy of Rs 15 per kg.

(c) Yes, Sir. In order to help liquidation of accumulated stock of handloom cloth, Government of India has been organising National Level Handloom Expos which are participated by the handloom agencies in the co-operative sector also.